



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1520-6122

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2005

VOL. 52 NO. 102

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In New York, prices were unchanged on all weights when compared to yesterday. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady entering the holiday weekend. Retail demand continued moderate to very good. Supplies were balanced to about adequate on the larger sizes and fully sufficient on mediums. Breaking stock offerings were tight to barely adequate on heavy weights and sufficient to available on the lighter weighted eggs. Demand was quiet to moderate for mostly reduced breaking schedules. Offerings of spent hens were about adequate to sufficient for an at least moderate demand. Slaughter schedules were reported as normal to instances less than normal.

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, White eggs in cartons, cents per dozen.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to producers in IA-MN-WI were 2 cents higher for large with all other prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Retail demand was good to very good for last minute holiday orders. Loose egg movement was light to moderate. Supplies were balanced to slightly more available for the larger sizes and fully adequate for mediums and small. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged. Demand was quiet with offerings tight to barely adequate for heavy breaking stock with lighter product more available. Floor stocks adequate to closely balanced. Schedules mostly reduced for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

Prices delivered to warehouse:

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	70-79	73-76
LARGE	69-78	71-74
MEDIUM	45-54	47-50

Prices delivered to store door:

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	77-85	78-80
LARGE	75-83	76-78
MEDIUM	51-59	52-54

Midwest Area: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV, Western NY & Western PA.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Retail demand was good to very good for last minute orders before the Christmas holiday weekend. Food service movement was light to moderate. Supplies were balanced to slightly more available for the larger sizes and fully adequate for mediums. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged. Demand was quiet with offerings tight to barely adequate for heavy breaking stock with lighter weight product more available. Floor stocks adequate to closely balanced. Schedules mostly reduced for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

Prices delivered to warehouse:

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	81.5-90	83-86
LARGE	80.5-89	82-85
MEDIUM	54.5-63	56-59

South Central Area: AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, MO, MN, OK & TX.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged. Asking prices for next week's deliveries were trending higher on the larger sizes and unchanged on mediums. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady entering the holiday weekend. Retail demand remained mostly good. Supplies were in balance to about sufficient on the larger sizes and fully adequate on lighter weights. Breaking stock offerings were limited on the heavy weights, while offerings of lighter weights were available for current needs. Breaking schedules were reduced due to the upcoming holidays and demand was noted as light to moderate. Offerings of spent hens were about sufficient to adequate for an at least moderate demand. Slaughter schedules were reported as normal to instances less than normal.

Prices delivered to warehouse:

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	73.25-88	82-85
LARGE	73.25-86	80-83
MEDIUM	55.5-63	56-60

Southeast Area: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN & Southern VA.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged. Asking prices for next week's deliveries following the long holiday weekend were trending higher on heavier weights. Trade sentiment was steady to occasionally firm, mostly steady to fully steady. Demand into all channels was moderate to good. Supplies were about sufficient to fully adequate for current needs. Breaking stock offerings were limited to available for the light to moderate demand. Spent hens were about adequate to adequate for normal to instances less than normal processing schedules.

Prices delivered to warehouse:

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	77-91	79-83
LARGE	72-86	77-81
MEDIUM	53-66	58-60

Northeast Area: CT, DC, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, Eastern PA, RI, Northern VA, & VT.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged on extra large, large and medium when compared to yesterday. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Demand ranged moderate to good entering the holiday weekend. Supplies were about adequate to fully adequate for current trade requirements.

Prices delivered to store door:

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	94-98
LARGE	92-96
MEDIUM	65-69

WESTERN Prices were unchanged. The market tone was firm. Asking prices for next week 7 cents higher on jumbo, extra large and large, with mediums 2 cents higher. Retailer demand was good overall. Offerings were generally adequate for immediate needs.

CALIFORNIA Prices were unchanged. The market tone was firm with asking prices for next week on jumbo, extra large and large 7 cents higher; medium and small 2 cents higher. Retailer demand good. Offerings in fair balance. Small benchmark price 73.

CALIFORNIA: Shell egg marketer's benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	127	EXTRA LARGE	123
LARGE	116	MEDIUM	93

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade AA and Grade AA, white eggs in cartons, delivered store door, cents per dozen.

	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	107-116	EXTRA LARGE	105-110
LARGE	103-106	MEDIUM	80-83

Prices to consumers major chains, metropolitan area, USDA Grade AA and Grade AA, white eggs in cartons, cents per dozen.

	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	259-329	EXTRA LARGE	239-309
LARGE	199-229	MEDIUM	189-199

CENTRAL REGION BREAKING STOCK Prices unchanged. Demand was quiet with offerings tight to barely adequate for heavy breaking stock with lighter weight product more available. Floor stocks closely balanced to adequate. Schedules mostly reduced for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	21-25	21-23
BREAKING STOCK	34-37	
CENTRAL STATES AREA: AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, NM, ND, NE, OH, OK, SD, TX, WI		

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Mostly prices were unchanged when compared to early week trading. Trade sentiment was generally steady, but offerings of heavy weight breaking stock was limited. However, offerings of lighter weight eggs were available. Most breakers demand was light to moderate, but generally unaggressive as processing schedules were being reduced for the holiday weeks. Floor stocks were barely adequate to adequate for usually less than normal to normal breaking schedules. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 17-Dec-2005 were 11% higher than last week, and 2% more than a year ago.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	35-39	36-38
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	21-28	22-25
EASTERN STATES AREA: AL, CT, DE, FL, GA, KY, ME, MD, MA, MS, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA, WV		

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION -W/E 17-Dec-2005 (LBS IN THOUSANDS) (EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)

	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED	
CW	1,239,764	31,901	10,257	5,389	2,345	4,257	
PW	1,248,908	30,999	10,774	6,194	2,313	4,178	
LY	1,243,491	29,563	12,245	6,752	2,554	4,502	
% PW	-1%	3%	-5%	-13%	1%	2%	
% LY	0%	8%	-16%	-20%	-8%	-5%	
2005	65,423,722	1,561,420	626,856	336,081	143,085	221,091	
2004	62,065,004	1,478,118	596,186	322,570	132,429	213,707	
% YTD	5%	6%	5%	4%	8%	3%	
					CW	PW	LY
Average Yield Per Case - (Inedible Included)					41.78	41.75	42.67
Average Yield Per Case - (Inedible Excluded)					38.35	38.41	39.05

IN-LINE PRODUCTION (of total production; lbs. in thousands; may include a limited amount of off-line source material)

	Cases Broken		Liquid whole	
	Cases	% of Total	Lbs.	% of Total
CURRENT WEEK	512,157	41.30%	15,696	49.20%
PREVIOUS WEEK	535,123	42.80%	15,353	49.50%
LAST YEAR	493,388	39.70%	13,539	45.80%

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices were 1 cent lower on whole, unchanged on whites and 3 cents lower on yolks. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 12/17 was 17% lower than the previous week. Frozen demand good overall with freezer stocks generally adequate.

Wholesale selling prices, f.o.b. shipping point (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	RANGE
WHOLE	53-57
WHITES	42-45
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	70-73
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	67-70

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Frozen whole egg prices ranged 1 cent lower with whites ranging irregular. Frozen sugared yolk ranged 1 to 4 cents lower, with frozen salted yolk 2 to 3 cents lower. Trade sentiment was barely steady to instances weak for frozen whole egg, steady to fully steady for whites, and weak for all frozen yolk products. Demand was light to moderate with offerings adequate. Processing schedules were reduced for the next two weeks. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged when compared to last week's reported prices. Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

TRUCKLOTS	RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	47-50	48-49
WHITES	37-42	39-42
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	64-71	66-69
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	60-65	61-63

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Majority prices were unchanged on whites, unchanged to lower on whole, and lower on yolks when compared to a week earlier. Demand and trading was seasonal but only fair for the holiday season. Offerings were adequate for current trade requirements. Interest was reported as quiet on yolks, light to fair on balance. Trade sentiment was barely steady on yolks, steady to about steady on whole, and usually steady on whites. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 17-Dec-2005 were 17% more than the previous week, and 2% higher than a year earlier.

	TRUCKLOTS (MIN. 25 CONT.)		LTL
	RANGE	MOSTLY	RANGE
WHOLE	44-52	48-49	54-58
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		64-81
WHITES	31-42	36-40	42-55
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	62-73	66-69	72-83
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	60-65		68-82

(/) - Whole plus yolk plus sweetener, generally 28-32% egg solids.

NATIONAL DRIED Mostly prices were lower on whole, unchanged to lower on yolks, but higher on albumen when compared to a week earlier. Trading was not that active but usually in a range of light to fair. Offerings were generally sufficient for current trade needs. Trade sentiment was unsettled to barely steady on whole and yolks, and irregular but usually reported as steady to full steady on albumen. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending 17-Dec-2005 were 1% more than the previous week, but 8% less than a year earlier. The total year to date production on dried eggs produced were 8% higher than a year ago.

Wholesale selling prices, dollars per lb., in cont., Trucklot and LTL volumes.

WHOLE	1.41-1.80	MOSTLY 1.52-1.60
YOLKS	1.42-1.70	MOSTLY 1.50-1.60
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	2.27-2.59	MOSTLY 2.35-2.50
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	1.30-1.50	MOSTLY 1.40-1.50

NATIONAL LIQUID Pasteurized salt yolk reported from 44 to 52 cents fob with pasteurized whites reported at 33 cents fob. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak for whole egg, steady for whites, and weak for yolk. Demand was sluggish for whole egg and yolk with white demand fairly good. Offerings were fully adequate to ample for whole egg and yolk while white offerings were tight to just adequate. Many further processors were taking extended time off for the holidays which was adding more uncommitted loads of whole egg and yolk to the market place at this time. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged when compared to last week's prices.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00 AM non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LW
WHOLE	15	26-28.75	26.95	-.99
WHITES	11	27-27.5	27.18	.14
YOLKS	7	45-58.75	51.54	-6.29

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES* WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DEC 16, 2005-DEC 22, 2005

CURRENT LOADS 60.50 FUTURE LOADS 41.50 TOTAL LOADS 102.00															
SE			NE		MW			SC			NW		SW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	61.33	66.10	61.50	64.92	62.50	63.33	37.00	GNR W 1	--	--	--	--	--	76.50	5.00
GNR BR 1	--	83.00	--	--	--	--	2.00	GL W J	66.00	--	--	--	--	76.67	3.00
GL W J	--	--	75.00	76.50	58.00	--	2.00	GL W XL	--	75.75	--	--	--	78.50	6.00
GL W XL	--	71.33	79.00	76.33	63.85	68.25	26.25	GL W LG	72.50	76.13	--	86.56	72.50	80.20	22.00
GL W LG	65.00	77.82	69.00	74.27	59.00	69.58	23.25	GL W MD	38.56	--	36.00	49.00	--	44.47	8.50
GL W MD	52.00	49.60	54.63	51.59	36.60	38.67	21.50	GL W SM	--	--	--	--	--	40.50	1.00
GL W SM	38.25	41.00	35.50	39.00	--	--	4.00	GL BR J	--	--	--	--	--	--	.25
GL BR J	--	--	--	--	99.00	--	.25	GL BR XL	--	--	--	--	--	--	.50
GL BR XL	--	--	--	--	97.00	--	.50	GL BR LG	--	--	--	--	--	--	.75
GL BR LG	--	--	--	--	96.00	--	.75								
NRBS - 48	--	--	--	--	--	37.00	16.00								
NRBS - 39	--	--	--	--	14.75	18.50	4.00								

*Weighted average prices are listed for various classes priced by origin and/or destination for 6 regions. The loads column reflects total loads reported and includes loads with prices to be determined later. NRBS categories represent net weight-material may or may not be included. Load movement represents total movement within 6 regions.

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL

WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS

(INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HENS Prices were slightly higher when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings of spent hens. Processing schedules were normal to instances less than. Trade sentiment was steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	3-11	7-9

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Costs of disposal were TFEWR. Demand was slow for at least adequate offerings from spent hen suppliers. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were reduced. Trade sentiment was about steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Removal costs ranged unchanged to 1 half cent lower. Demand was fair to good while offerings were in close balance to slightly short of complete needs for this week. Schedules shortened for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	.5-5.5	

WEST COAST LIGHT Plant worked desired schedules. Offerings generally adequate for current needs.

COMBINED REGIONAL SHELL EGGS

Average prices on sales to volume buyers, Grade A Large or better, White eggs in cartons, delivered warehouse, cents per dozen.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	81.00	79.00	59.00
SOUTHEAST	83.50	81.50	58.00
MIDWEST	74.50	72.50	48.50
SOUTH CENTRAL	84.50	83.50	57.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	81.02	79.31	55.77

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Trading was too few to report for heavy canners; unchanged on lights when compared to a week earlier. Demand was mostly fair for light canners; fair to moderate for heavy canners with most available supplies being used internally. Offerings were mostly adequate current trade needs. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
20-29 MAJORITY 24.5-25.5	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
21-32 MAJORITY 26-27	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

U.S./Canadian Live Poultry Slaughtered Under Inspection

W/E 17-Dec-05 (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered Domestically

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
	Thousands		
Head	1,404	1,488	2,892
Last Week	1,270	1,483	2,753
Same week yr ago	1,499	1,462	2,961
To-date/2005	71,036	70,846	141,882
To-date/2004	68,411	68,047	136,458

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered in Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
	Thousands		
Head	142	0	142
Last Week	109	0	109
Same week yr ago	292	0	292
To-date/2005	12,566	66	12,632
To-date/2004	12,465	147	12,612

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Total U.S. Fowl slaughtered in the U.S. and Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
	Thousands		
Head	1,546	1,488	3,034
Last Week	1,379	1,483	2,862
Same week yr ago	1,791	1,462	3,253
To-date/2005	83,602	70,912	154,514
To-date/2004	80,876	68,194	149,070

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 10, 2005		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2005	2004 1/	2005 2/	2004
Liquid	309	388	16,639	19,773
Frozen	0	0	130	11
Dried	0	40	848	856
Total	309	428	17,617	20,640

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending December 10, 2005		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2005	2004 1/	2005 2/	2004
Liquid	81	86	6,346	7,548
Frozen	0	5	814	1,559
Dried	0	0	371	2,113
Total	81	91	7,531	11,220

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 10, 2005		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2005	2004 1/	2005 2/	2004
Jumbo	0	0	200	392
Extra Large	1,190	15,266	181,811	223,391
Large	5,360	22,073	298,976	455,248
Medium	1,252	4,220	99,377	138,304
Ungraded	3,750	4,776	228,928	330,035
Misc	0	0	9,753	16,790
Total	11,552	46,335	819,045	1,164,160

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - Selected Centers

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

		Frozen Eggs/LBS	Turkeys/LBS	Processed other Poultry/LBS
AM	12/19/05	3,299	29,488	71,055
AM	12/01/05	3,375	33,192	75,095
CHG		-76	-3704	-4040
PCT CHG		-2%	-11%	-5%

MONTHLY COLD STORAGE REPORT

(In Units of 1,000)

	31-Oct	31-Oct	30-Nov	30-Nov
FROZEN EGGS:	2004	2005	2004	2005
Whites	2,888	2,940	2,955	2,851
Yolks	1,321	1,130	1,072	1,274
Whole & Mixed	10,052	10,193	10,174	10,335
Unclassified	3,616	3,356	3,123	3,133
Total Frozen Eggs	17,877	17,619	17,324	17,593

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT

(Receipts From Producers)

W/E 17-Dec-2005	CASES	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
REGIONS	(IN THOUS)	PW	LY
North Atlantic	227.4	2	-1
East North Central	645.4	9	8
West North Central	301.7	6	1
South Atlantic	213.6	2	-9
South Central	61.1	1	-13
West	201.0	-4	8
Total	1655.3	4	2
Matched Plants reporting		84	84
Areas Covered: North Atlantic (ME,VT,MA,RI,CT,NH,NY,PA,NJ,MC,DE)			
East North Central (WI,IL,MI,OH,IN) West North Central (IA,MN,MO,KS,SD)			
South Atlantic (SC,NC,VA,GA,FL,KY) South Central (TN,AL,AR,MS,OK)			
West (CA,CO,WA,OR,UT)			

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS

W/E 17-Dec-2005

Selected Consuming Centers	CW	LW	PERCENT CHANGE	
	(Thousands)		LW	LY
Atlanta	32.4	28.5	14	12
Boston	3.3	2.6	27	-3
Chicago	102.4	94.5	8	56
Detroit	33.8	40.3	-16	22
Kansas City	5.4	4.5	20	2
Los Angeles	118.7	116.7	2	33
New Orleans	8.0	5.2	54	19
New York	35.8	34.2	5	-3
St. Louis	23.9	24.7	-3	-1
San Francisco	19.2	20.0	-4	-10
Total	382.9	371.2	3	24
4 Week Moving Avg.	363.2			

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT

Dec 20, 2005

Prices paid per dozen Grade A Brown eggs in cartons delivered store door.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE	133	125	88	56
MOSTLY	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE	125-129	118-122	81-85	49-53
MOSTLY	127-128	120-121	83-84	51-52
RHODE ISLAND	132-136	126-130	87-91	55-59
MOSTLY	132	126	87	55
VERMONT	133	125	88-89	-
MOSTLY	-	-	88	-

CHICKENS AND EGGS**November Egg Production Up 1 Percent**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during November 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The number of layers during November 2005 averaged 347 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,175 eggs, up slightly from November 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2005, totaled 348 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 348 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.61 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2005, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

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